

Fact Sheet: 2011 Filing Season Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)

❑ What is VITA and TCE?

- These programs provide free help to low-income, senior, disabled, and non-English speaking persons who need to file simple federal and state income tax returns.
- Many military bases also provide VITA services for the U.S. Armed Forces. In 2010, there were 32 military VITA sites throughout California.
- In California, the major TCE partner is the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).
- Approximately 1,000 sites statewide provide free tax assistance.

❑ Who can use VITA?

- VITA provides free, easily accessible tax assistance to individuals who may have limited income (generally \$49,000 and below), or are non-English speaking, or are disabled.

❑ Who can use TCE?

- TCE provides free, easily accessible tax assistance specifically targeting the needs of the elderly.

❑ How many people receive VITA and TCE assistance?

- Income tax return statistics for 2010:
 - 9,843 volunteers statewide.
 - 1,104 sites.
 - 225,015 income tax returns (79 percent e-filed).

❑ To support VITA and TCE programs, Internal Revenue Service and Franchise Tax Board:

- Jointly administer the programs.
- Recruit VITA and TCE volunteers statewide.
- Provide volunteer training.
- Provide outreach to increase the public's awareness of the programs.
- Provide training and support for tax law questions to the military VITA program.

❑ **How does FTB increase awareness of VITA and TCE programs?**

- Recruits more volunteers statewide to increase program availability at existing sites.
- Recruits more volunteers from the ranks of tax professionals, non-English speaking members of the community, college students, and government employees.
- Works with IRS to increase the number of volunteer sites.
- Publicizes the program statewide.

❑ **Find out more about VITA or TCE programs:**

- Go to ftb.ca.gov or irs.gov and search for VITA.
- Aarp.org also provides information about the TCE program.

❑ **Contact us:**

Franchise Tax Board's website: ftb.ca.gov
Tax Assistance Telephone Number: 800.852.5711.
Connect with us: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)